SUBJECTS.

65. Management of Devaswom properties.

Mr. D. Govinda Pillai (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) requested that special arrangements might be made for the management of Devaswom properties. They belonged to the Hindus in general and Government were only trustees. He referred to the abuse and waste under existing management and said that, under careful supervision, there would result considerable saving which could be utilised in sending young men for education abroad, or if that was considered not possible, in resuscitating dilapidated temples.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the member are noted.

IX. *Miscellaneous.*

66. Christians and the public service.

Mr. T. C. Cheriyan (Member, Travancore and Cochin Christian Association, Kottayam) spoke especially on the exclusion of Native Christians from the higher grades of the Revenue service. Referring to the dedication of the whole State to Sri Padmanabha Swami, on which was evidently based the exclusion of Christians, he said that there was nothing in that legendary act of dedication to justify the exclusion of Christians from 39 appointments in the higher grade; that, even if the version of legendary lore was passed over, such dedication was extremely unlikely and that there was no reliable or authentic evidence of the same; that the dedication, if there was one, was simply an out-come of His Highness' piety and desire to secure peace and immunity from attacks of enemies; that it was not to be presumed that it contemplated the exclusion of Christians from the public service; that the enfranchisement of Sirkar pattom lands, the former employment of Christians in branches now closed to them, the employment of Europeans as heads of departments, and the permission accorded to missionary endeavours disproved such intention or dedication; that it was inconsistent with private rights of property and was an act of intolerance which it would be a sin to attribute to sovereigns on the West Coast. The Christians were not foreigners and were in the country long before the Maha Raja acquired sovereignty over North Travancore. He requested that, in conformity with liberal principles, the 39 appointments in the higher grades be thrown open to Christians as well. With regard to other appointments in the Revenue service on Rs. 30 and upwards, it was true in theory that they were open to Christians,

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